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(WASHINGTON) - Today, Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) voted to make significant new investments in alternative energy and fuel-efficient vehicle technology, a move that would help rebuild the American economy, grow new jobs, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

The Advanced Vehicle Technology Act will create the most comprehensive national vehicle research and development program to date, investing in the cutting-edge, commercially viable vehicle technologies of the future.

**"In St. Louis, we've seen thousands of hard-working people lose their jobs as the American auto industry has fallen behind their foreign competitors in the race toward innovation,"** said Congressman Carnahan, who has made innovation a priority of his as a member of the Science and Technology Committee. **"By investing in the technology of the future, we can create jobs, rebuild our economy and protect our national security."**

The legislation builds on efforts by the Democratic-led Congress to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and spur energy innovation, including the historic fuel efficiency standards enacted in 2007 and the clean-energy jobs bill passed earlier this year. In addition to helping the private sector create millions of new American jobs that can't be shipped overseas, the clean-energy jobs bill will allow the U.S. to cut our oil use by 5 million barrels a day by 2030 - the equivalent of what we currently import from Venezuela and the Middle East.

Yesterday, the Obama Administration also announced new auto fuel economy standards that increase efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to help consumers save money at the pump and decrease our dependence on foreign oil.

**"Our national and economic security are at risk when we export billions of dollars overseas for oil," Carnahan said. "But with short-term boosts like Cash for Clunkers and long-term investments like the Advanced Vehicle Technology Act and our clean-energy jobs bill, we are creating jobs here at home and spurring American innovation."**

The bipartisan Advanced Vehicle Technology Act is supported by a broad coalition, including auto companies such as Ford Motor Company, General Motors and Chrysler, business groups like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the United Autoworkers.

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